

GROWING DISCIPLES

An OVERVIEW of all the Sessions and their Options

- Phase 1: Introduction page 1
- Phase 2: Growing as a Learning Community –
discovering Good News together page 2
- Phase 3: Growing as a Worshipping Community –
experiencing Good News together page 3
- Phase 4: Growing as a Listening Community –
embodying Good News together page 4
- Phase 5: Growing as a Missionary Community –
practising Good news together page 5

Phase 1: Introduction

1. Going deeper together

Option A. Discussing together

In the booklet ... a Bible-based discussion about the tasks of discipleship and the challenge to 'push out into deeper water' as a church

Option B. Creative together

On CD and website ... a creative session celebrating the gifts of one another, getting to know and value each other better

Option C. Resource

On CD and website ... a suggested plan for an act of worship, exploring Luke 5: 1-11, the call of the disciples to go deeper

2. Sharpening up

Option A. Discussing together

In the booklet ... a Bible-based discussion designed to help the church begin to evaluate itself and think about its challenges [plus an Extra resource about Natural Church Development]

Option B. Creative together

On CD and website ... a creative session about the need to learn new skills as churches in today's world

Option C. Resource

On CD and website ... a worship resource, to help the group plan an act of worship to help the church think about its challenges

Phase 2: Growing as a Learning Community

3. Learning with each other: disciples are all different

Option A. Creative together

In the booklet ... a creative way of exploring the variety of people and gifts in your church

Option B. Discussing together

On CD and website ... a Bible Study exploring how we learn and how Jesus draws a range of people into the learning community

Option C. Resource

On CD and website ... Bible-based resources / discussions for the group to decide how to use, in what contexts, to explore how we learn as different disciples

4. Learning with the Bible: 'reading' in community

Option A. Creative together

In the booklet ... an interactive activity getting people to 'remember' stories and grow in relationship with one another

Option B. Discussing together

On CD and website ... a Bible Study exploring the story of Jesus and the Children, drawing on people's own wisdom and some 'background' information

Option C. Resource

On CD and website ... information (plus a powerpoint) about 'scrapbooking and the Bible', i.e. tips on developing a creative way of linking people's stories & the Bible's stories

5. Learning with hope: the church signals God's new world

Option A. Creative together

In the booklet ... an interactive and creative activity exploring the things which are like obstacles to our learning (including a fun 'obstacle course!'), and overcoming them [includes a powerpoint]

Option B. Resource

On CD and website ... ideas and notes on the challenge of being a church in today's world, inviting the group to make the ideas into a presentation for Church Meeting

Option C. Resource

On CD and website ... ideas to help people think about how to show 'good news' in the community and what is the 'bad news' in the community which needs to be recognised?

Phase 3: Growing as a Worshipping Community

6. Worshipping with each other: involving different people

Option A. Discussing together

In the booklet ... a Bible Study exploring how worship can be, and even needs to be, disrupted for the sake of those who are currently 'outsiders'; to make us think about including everyone

Option B. Creative together

On CD and website ... a session exploring the use of all our senses in worship, recognising what it means to love God with our whole being [plus an Extra resource about All-Age Worship]

Option C. Resource

On CD and website ... a series of Bible-based discussions and activities for the group to decide how to use, in what contexts – each explores a different emotion or issue to be included in worship

7. Worshipping with the Bible: how the Word speaks today

Option A. Creative together

In the booklet ... some creative activities designed to help people explore the difficult book of Revelation, to consider how other difficult passages might also be explored creatively

Option B. Discussing together

On the CD and website ... an alternative approach to the Bible, encouraging people to draw on their 'remembered' versions of the Bible, a good way to learn and grow through conversation and action

Option C. Resource

On the CD and website ... a resource exploring how the Good News, as we find it in the Bible, sheds new light on 'the bad news' as we find it in newspapers, to help people interpret together

8. Worshipping with the World: engaging with culture

Option A. Discussing together

In the booklet ... a session to help a group devise an act of worship, on the theme of 'seeking the good of others', with some Extra web-links as resources to be explored

Option B. Resource

On the CD and website ... a session exploring fresh ways of worshipping and being church – Messy Church and Café Church – as ways of connecting with new people, inc. three sample leaflets

Option C. Creative together

On the CD and website ... a creative way of exploring 'life without God' and 'life with God' in the context of worship, to help the church think about ways of connecting with its community

Phase 4: Growing as a Listening Community

9. Listening to each other: showing care for all people

Option A. Resource

In the booklet ... a session to help the church explore how to thank people in all the voluntary roles of the church, so not to take anyone for granted but to celebrate what is achieved

Option B. Creative together

On the CD and website ... a range of short activities exploring and celebrating the diversity of people who make up the Body of Christ, aiming to pay attention to people 'just as they are'

Option C. Discussing together

On the CD and website ... a discussion without discussion! A way of helping people listen to each other's thoughts, in the context of a Bible passage, without cutting across one another

10. Listening to God through each other: finding God's way forward

Option A. Resource

In the booklet ... a series of activities to help the church rejuvenate Church Meeting, to remind us what it's about and how it can work to its full potential [plus role plays, and Extra notes]

Option B. Discussing together

On the CD and website ... a session focusing on the theme of 'building consensus', with case studies from real church meetings to help explore the meaning and power of consensus

Option C. Resource

On the CD and website ... a resource for worship, celebrating the Congregational tradition

11. Listening to God in the world: deciding how to live ethically

Option A. Discussing together

In the booklet ... a Bible-based discussion designed to help people think through ethical / moral questions together, focusing here on 'the art of mercy' and the need to show mercy to each other!

Option B. Creative together

On the CD and website ... a creative session exploring our relationship to God's natural world

Option C. Resource

On the CD and website ... a resource to help people create an act of worship on the theme of peace

Phase 5: Growing as a Missionary Community

12. Going public: relating to God's weird-and-wonderful world

Option A. Creative together

In the booklet ... a series of creative activities exploring five different aspects of mission

Option B. Discussing together

On the CD and website ... a discussion exploring the Church's story and its next chapter ...

Option C. Resource

On the CD and website ... a resource to help the church understand its local community

13. Talking of faith: listening and evangelism

Option A. Resource

In the booklet ... a series of Bible-based questions helping people to share their faith [plus an Extra resource with further tips and guidance]

Option B. Discussing together

On the CD and website ... a series of short activities concerned with evangelism as story-telling

Option C. Creative together

On the CD and website ... a creative session exploring evangelism as action, focusing on others' needs [plus a powerpoint about the church in the community]

14. Building God's new world: hospitality, peace and justice

Option A. Discussing together

In the booklet ... a Bible Study on the theme of hospitality, helping churches to think bigger

Option B. Creative activity

On the CD and website ... creative ways of exploring how to care for those beyond our walls [with two powerpoints to look at]

Option C. Resource

On the CD and website ... helping the church to pursue justice [plus an Extra set of web-links]

15. Evaluation: what next?

The final session is in the booklet, and is concerned with looking back over the programme to see what has been learned, how actions have been taken forward, and what might come next?